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Joan Sevigny Cramer
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Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Regarding: Raised Bill No. 5249
AN ACT CONCERNING COPAYMENTS FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES.

Dear Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

I am an Occupational Therapist who has been working in Connecticut for the past 26 years. I have been employed in a variety of venues all of which provide multiple services. At this time I am writing to request your support in passing Raised Bill No. 5249 which would be an extension of last year's Public Act No. 13-307 (House Bill 6546), which similarly limited the co-payments for physical therapy services.

When working with neurologic or complex medical patients, it is often common that the rehabilitative process is most effective when getting coordinated services by both physical and occupational therapy. Our goals are individualized and meet the needs of each individual as they recover from their illness. When patients are making progress it is not right that the financial constraints of co-payments results in fewer therapy visits simply associated to out of pocket expenses for only one of the therapy services. Often, a patient progressing slowly with physical therapy experiences more functional and emotional improvement as a result of OT services. Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants are uniquely educated to provide services that support mental and physical health, rehabilitation, and recovery-oriented approaches.

Once again, I ask for your support of **Raised Bill No. 5249 which would be an extension of last year's Public Act No. 13-307 (House Bill 6546)**. Support of this bill would enable patients to afford the services that would best meet their medical needs and which will promote independence. If your loved one was in need of a service that would promote a quality of life that ensures safety and happiness I think that you would want to know they could have equal access to this service.

Thank you so much your time. I am happy to answer any questions you might have regarding this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Joan Sevigny Cramer, MS, OT/L

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